

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 22, 2004.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1 – 5 have been cancelled. Claims 6, 11 and 16 have been amended. Figure 2 has been amended to add the legend “Prior Art” to the figure as requested by the Examiner. The amendment appears on the enclosed Replacement Sheet.

In the present Office Action, claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Claims 1 – 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,199,100 (Filepp et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,223,344 (Gerald et al.). Claims 6-20 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the Section 112 rejections.

Applicants have canceled claims 1 – 5, and therefore the Section 103(a) rejection of these claims is now moot. The only remaining issue is the rejection of claims 6-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The undersigned discussed the Section 112 rejection of remaining claims 6-20 with the Examiner during a telephonic interview on December 16, 2004. Applicants have amended claims 6, 11 and 16 in the manner suggested by the Examiner during the interview, and it is believed that the Section 112 rejections have been overcome. In particular, claims 6, 11 and 16 have each been amended to make it clear that “the value” recited in sub-elements (iv) and (v) of each claim are references to the same “a value of a field of the type” recited earlier in sub-element (iii) of the claim. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended the instances of “the value” in sub-elements (iv) and (v) of each of claims 6, 11 and 16 to read “the value of the field” to make this more clear. The only other Section 112 issue raised in the Office Action with respect to claims 6-20 is the statement in paragraph 6 of the Office Action that there is insufficient antecedent basis for “the database store” in line 9 of claim 11. However, as pointed out during the telephonic interview, that term finds antecedent basis in the recitation of “a database store” in line 2 of the claim. The Examiner agreed that this provides the necessary antecedent basis.

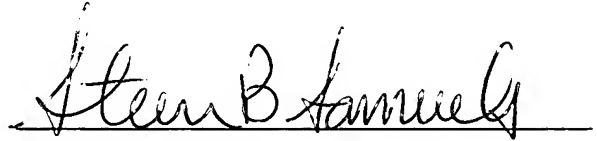
Because the claims have been amended to overcome the Section 112 rejection of claims 6-20 and Figure 2 has been amended as requested, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, Applicants respectfully

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-2852/306819.01
Application No.: 10/692,225
Office Action Dated: October 22, 2004

PATENT

request that the Examiner contact the undersigned via telephone to resolve them.
Reconsideration of the Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Date: *December 17, 2004*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven B. Samuels", written over a horizontal line.

Steven B. Samuels
Registration No. 37,711

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439